

hearts. And by our presenc and influence we may be able to lead them nearer to God.

Lesson XII: Acts 16:19-34. Among the many great truths of this lesson, the one that stands out pre-eminently above everything else, as it does in all the Scriptures, is the simple plan of salvation. Paul and Silas believed in Jesus. They trusted him, and rejoiced in him, even in the midst of sufferings. When the opportunity came they were ready to baptize a convicted soul to Jesus, and they showed that all that was needed was to trust Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the soul. Martin Luther had believed that there were many things he ought to do. As he was climbing St. Peter's stairs in Rome, thinking he would gain great merit thereby, a voice seemed to whisper in his ear, "Thou shalt live by faith." He arose at once and walked down the steps, went back to Germany, and the Reformation was begun. "Faith is the victory."

OUR GROWTH.

The year just closed has been one of unprecedented blessings for our Church. Reports from every department of the work denotes progress. The great mission of the Church is to save the lost, and we wish to call attention especially to the growth in this particular. The following comparative statement is very encouraging:

Additions by profession: 1914, 16,149; 1915, 20,156; 1916, 21,804.

An increase of 35 per cent in the number of conversions in two years.

Again, many churches each year report no additions by profession, and many make no report at all. This large number of churches failing to report a convert is rapidly decreasing, as shown by the following table:

Churches failing to report a convert: 1914, 1,512; 1915, 1,375; 1916, 1,163.

Reported membership of these non-productive churches: 1914, 51,251; 1915, 44,307; 1916, 40,788.

A decrease of 23 per cent in number of these churches in two years.

These figures again show considerable growth and should encourage us to labor and pray that every field may become abundantly fruitful.

The majority of our Presbyteries have had Conferences on Evangelism during the year, and are planning for more aggressive work. From Presbyteries reporting, we have the following facts:

	1915.	1916.
Having definite plan....	21%	42%
Having partial plan....	19%	29%
Having no plan.....	60%	29%

Forty Presbyteries report over eight hundred churches that held protracted evangelistic services last year, and the spirit of evangelism seems to be growing stronger. Pastoral and personal evangelism is being emphasized perhaps as never before, while the whole Church is beginning to realize the need for a more systematic and aggressive plan for saving the lost. We are confidently expecting and praying that this year may be one of still richer blessing and much larger ingathering.

W. H. Miley.

Are you ever afraid to tell the Lord about your small things, as if they were no tworth His attending to? Your great things are not any more worth His attending to. Cast all your care on Him.—Andrew A. Bonar.

Whosoever has not yet made up his mind about the great principles of religion, because he has not yet examined whether religion is certain or problematical—whosoever finds himself in doubt, should have no more fervid business than that of ascertaining the truth.—Saurin.

Educational

KING COLLEGE.

King College commencement exercises were of unusual interest this year especially because of the splendid outlook for the future of the school under the auspices of the new synod of Appalachia. The Board of Curators is entering into the new formal negotiations with the Synod's committee on schools and colleges with a view to working out a plan for the management of the college by the Synod from which assurances have been received of cordial support. A committee was appointed to confer with the Synod's committee at Montreal on July 25th.

The Baccalaureate sermon was preached on Sunday morning May 28th, by Rev. J. Spole Lyons, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Lyons chose for his text Matt. 7:24, 25, and for his theme "Building our houses." He emphasized the great importance of building according to Christ's plans, providing especially for an inner chamber for close fellowship with God. The sermon was marked by Dr. Lyons' usual clear and earnest style and made a profound impression on all who heard it. Dr. Lyons is a King College alumnus, having been graduated there with the class of 1880.

The usual contests in declamation and oratory were held on Saturday night the 27th and Monday night the 29th, respectively, and were marked by splendid attendance and a high order of speeches. The Sam D. King oratorical medal, perhaps the most coveted honor in the institution, was won by Mr. Benjamin Thurman Smith, of Virginia, a member of the senior class and of the Athenaeum Literary Society.

On Tuesday night the annual Literary address was delivered by Rev. John Lee Allison, D. D., of Alexandria, Va., also a distinguished King College alumnus. Dr. Allison paid a glowing tribute to his alma mater and to the godly men who had founded it and had stood by it through its years of struggle and enable it to do such a splendid work for the Master's kingdom.

The Board of Curators of the College met on Tuesday the 30th and took formal steps looking toward the

removal of the college to a beautiful new site of the forty acres just outside of Bristol, Tenn., and authorized a campaign to raise not less than \$200,000 for the rebuilding and partial endowment of the college on the new site. It is planned to begin actual construction work in the early spring of 1917 in order to have sufficient buildings ready for the opening in September, 1917. The next session, which will begin Thursday September 14, 1916, will be conducted in the present plant.

The Board conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Rev. Charles C. Carson, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Bristol, Tennessee and the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon Rev. R. P. Smith, Superintendent of Home Missions in Asheville Presbytery, Synod of Appalachia. Five young men received the degree of Bachelor of Arts: Walter King Keys, William Isaac Spahr, Robert Lowry Berry, Benjamin Thurman Smith, all of Virginia, and Albert Benjamin McCreary, of Tennessee.

The Alumni and Old Students Association met on Tuesday afternoon and took formal steps toward the celebration of the Semi-centennial anniversary of the founding of the college in 1867. May 29, 1917, was set as the day for the celebration and a cordial invitation was issued to all former students to join in the exercises at that time.

CHAMBERLAIN—HUNT ACADEMY.

The closing exercises were held May 30th, in the school chapel. A rainy day prevented the usual out-door program. Dr. Thornton Whaling, president of the Theological Seminary, Columbia, S. C., made the address. He sustained his reputation for eloquence, persuasiveness and attractiveness as he presented the three great elements of character needed for success—namely, courage, humor and faith.

There were fourteen graduates, a very fine set of young men. This marked the closing of Major W. G. Martin's connection with the academy. Six years he served as head master and two years as the president. The Board of Trustees expressed its regret at losing him in a set of resolutions. The new president, Dr. C. T. Thomson, is on the ground and begins his work at once. A large percentage of the student body expects to return next year. An active canvass for new students will be made. Friends of the academy will be asked to make possible some much needed

improvements, such as an infirmary, a swimming pool and a new kitchen.

C. T. Thomson pres.

Port Gibson, Miss.

R.-M. W. C. COMMENCEMENT.

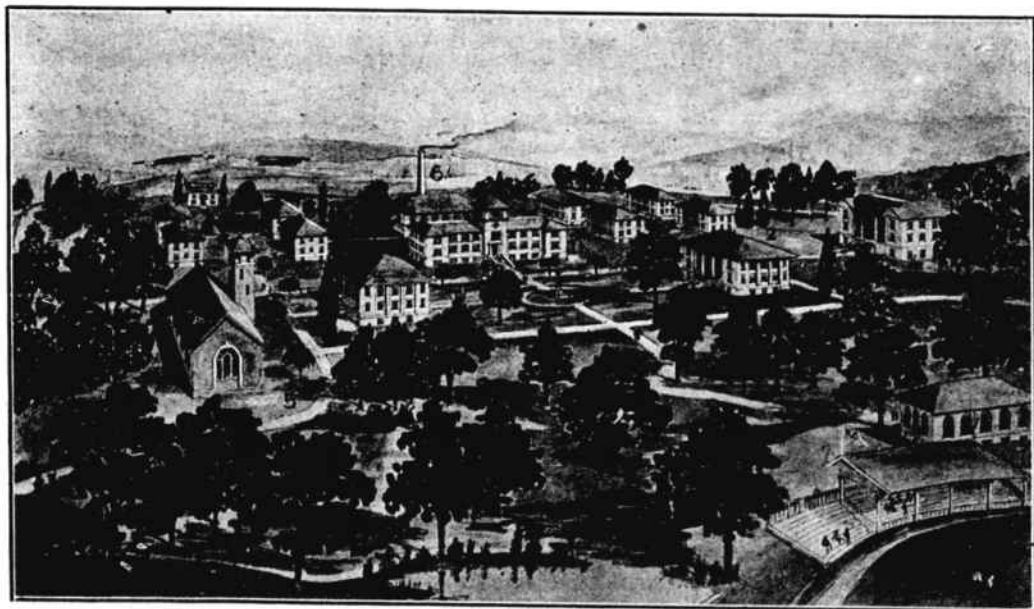
The commencement exercises at the Randolph-Macon Woman's College will begin on Friday, June 2, when the senior banquet will be given at the Virginian Hotel. On Saturday at 3 P. M. the alumnae will meet at the Oakwood Club and at 4:30 the Seniors will present a Shakespearean pageant, which will pass down the river on floats. Saturday night at 8 the annual debate between the Franklin and Jefferson Literary Societies will take place in the college chapel. The subject for discussion will be: "Resolved, That immigration should be further restricted." The baccalaureate sermon will be preached on Sunday morning by Bishop Collins Denny. Monday will be given up to the celebrations of the Senior class. The morning exercises will begin with the procession of Seniors carrying the daisy chain, which will be followed by an announcement of the legacies left to the under classmen. The planting of the ivy will bring the ceremonies to a close. At night the class will present Henry Van Dyke's "House of Rimmon." It has been necessary to secure the Casino in order to accommodate the large number of visitors. Tuesday morning at 11 the session will be brought to a close with the commencement address by Hon. Joseph Folk and the awarding of degrees to a class of 98 Bachelors of Arts and three Masters of Arts, the largest in the history of the institution.

W. AND L. UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT.

The program for commencement is now complete and is as follows:

Sunday, June 11—10:50 A. M., procession of the Board of Trustees, faculty and graduates (academic costume); 11 A. M., Baccalaureate sermon, by Bishop William Belton Murrah, D. D., I. L. D., Memphis.

Monday, June 12—3 P. M., Annual meeting of the Board of Trustees; 6 P. M., Annual boat race, preceded by race of the second crews; 8:45 P. M., joint celebration of the Literary Societies. Orators: Graham-Lee Society, R. N. Latture, Tennessee; E. L. Junkin, Virginia. Washington Literary Society, M. L. Masinter, Virginia; A. L. Bennett, Mississippi. Presentation of the Pinkney prize cup to the winning crew; presentation of the William



PLAN OF THE NEW KING COLLEGE AT BRISTOL, TENNESSEE.

The above group will represent a building program of five years and a total outlay of approximately \$250,000. (1) Administration Building; (2) Science Hall; (3) Class Room Building; (4) Library and Literary Society Halls; (5) Chapel; (6) Refectory; (7) Gymnasium and Athletic Grounds. The smaller buildings are dormitories with capacity of 32 boys each.